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In Darkest Daleyland

Reporters always gripe about their editors—those has-beens who emasculate their copy with one eye on City Hall and the other on the advertisers. Last week, two groups of newsmen in Chicago and Washington decided to take the copy into their own hands. The product of their handiwork is two new journals, The Chicago Journalism Review and Mayday, and both make lively reading:

■ The Chicago Journalism Review grew out of the complaints of young newspapermen who hold that the Daley city newspapers copped out in their coverage after the Democratic convention. The Review, a six-page, photo-offset newsletter, proclaims itself confidently Volume One, Number One. In its prologue, 27-year-old Henry De Zutter, education writer of The Chicago Daily News, declares that "under the disinterested gaze of their colleagues from Washington and New York, Chicago editors and publishers had nervously set down uncomplimentary facts about the police and the mayor. But when the cameras and conventioners went home, the local media returned to the fold. Mayor Daley was permitted to take over the media. Our own editorialists told us that we didn't really see what we saw under those blue helmets."

The rest of the issue is devoted to short critiques of coverage of the events at

"My initial thought," said De Zutter, "was to rush into print with a mimeograph sheet, dirty fingerprints and all."

But Ron Dorfman, 28, a reporter for Chicago's American, successfully argued for something more presentable. The result is a sweeping criticism of all four Chicago papers. The Sun-Times was accused of burying stories about police violence. The Tribune was taken to task for reporting that demonstrators broke a ground-floor window in the Hilton Hotel when in fact, the Review says, the police pushed the crowd into it. The Daily News was criticized for reprinting Mayor Daley's 77-page "White Paper"—without any comment at all—in the form of a pull-out supplement designed to be mailed to out-of-towners. The American was chided for allowing a front-page interview with Chicago officials to be edited by Police Chief Conlisk and his PR man. And all of the papers were derided for failing not only to report that the police smashed in windows of cars displaying McCarthy stickers, but also for accepting the police report later that the damage had been done by "hippies."

The reaction from management to the first issue, which was financed by an anonymous grant of \$500, was cautiously tempered. De Zutter said his own boss, Roy Fisher, had a "long, friendly chat" with him. "Roy made some criticisms, and a lot of them were justified," he said. But most of the editors he talked to, he added, "seem to feel that our criticism of each of the other papers was right on target but that criticism of his own paper was unfair."

■ Mayday is a four-page newsletter with a pictureless, but bold and modern make-up. It is the handiwork of three highly respected, radical journalists: Andrew Kopkind, 33, James Ridgeway, 31, both contributors to The New Republic until recently, and Robert Sherrill, 41, the Washington correspondent of The Nation and author of "The Drugstore Liberal."

As planned now, each issue will present a mixture of short news items and one feature-length story. The first issue contains a long piece by Kopkind dated Cleveland and called "Blue Collars and White Racism." While Kopkind says nothing new about the "Wallace vote," he says it well, as in his pieces for the English weekly, The New Statesman. The shorter pieces have more punch: "Nixon is the natural successor to LBJ... Nixon has a special fondness for the FBI. And the agents, who are tired of playing second fiddle to the liberals in the CIA, are all for him. Nixon tried to become an agent after getting out of college but didn't make it."

Change: The name Mayday is a triple pun. "We're aimed at distressed liberals, angry revolutionaries, and 'make love not war' types," said Kopkind. Mayday's first issue, put out on an austerity budget of about \$300 a week, contains an SOS for subscriptions at \$10 a year (\$7.50 to

charter subscribers, \$6 to students). So far, they have sold only a few hundred subscriptions, but they hope to support their effort not only by expanding the list of distressed subscribers, but also by reselling pieces they write for Mayday—but not, of course, to The New Republic or The Nation. The crusading lawyer Ralph Nader is listed as a consulting editor and will contribute occasional items.

Kopkind says he wants to use Mayday to "change the system. We must name the system, analyze it and change it." Sherrill, on the other hand, isn't so sure. "I joined up with Kopkind and Ridgeway because we enjoy each other's company."

SOC. 4.01.1 Mayday
SOC. 4.01.1 Chicago Journalism Review

Nixon, Richard
C.I.A. 7.02 FBI



Kopkind, Ridgeway, Sherrill: SOS

Grant and Lincoln parks by the city's four newspapers. Each one is written by a reporter—who is unidentified—of the newspaper in question. The idea for the newsletter originated with De Zutter at a post-convention meeting of angry young journalists in a Chicago restaurant.